

What is claimed is:

1. A conveyance attachable to a pier for facilitating loading and unloading the manifest items of a boat, comprising:

a landing including

a first part adapted for rigid connection to said pier and including a floor,

a second part pivotally connected to said first part on a first vertical pivot axis including a floor and

a first power means interconnected between said first and second parts operable to pivot said second part relative to said first part about said first vertical axis,

an elongated ramp having one of its longitudinal opposite ends pivotally connected to said second part of said landing on a first horizontal pivot axis transverse to the direction of elongation of said ramp,

a barge boarding platform having

a first segment pivotally connected to the other longitudinally opposite end of said ramp on a horizontal pivot axis parallel to said first horizontal pivot axis and including a floor, and

a second segment pivotally connected to said first segment on a second vertical axis and including a floor,

a lift linkage including

a pair of laterally spaced parallel upper links having first correspondence ends pivotally connected, respectively, to said first part of said landing for horizontal swinging movement about a first pair of vertical axes and for vertical swinging about horizontal axes lying in a horizontal plane and having second corresponding ends pivotally connected, respectively, to said second segment of said platform for horizontal swinging movement about a second pair of

vertical axes and for vertical swinging movement about horizontal axes lying in a horizontal plane,

a pair of laterally spaced parallel lower links having first corresponding ends pivotally connected, respectively, to said first part of said landing for horizontal swinging movement about said first pair of vertical axes and for vertical swinging movement about horizontal pivot axes lying in a horizontal plane and of said platform having second corresponding ends pivotally connected, respectively, to said second segment for horizontal swinging movement about said second pair of vertical axes and for vertical swinging movement about horizontal axes lying in a horizontal plane, and

second power means operatively associated with said lift linkage operable to raise and lower said platform to and from a boat disposed adjacent said pier, said upper and lower links maintaining said platform in the same orientation relative to said pier regardless of the pivot position of said second part of said landing relative to said first part of said landing.

2. The conveyance of claim 1 wherein said ramp is a stairway with self leveling steps.

3. The conveyance of claim 1 wherein said links are spaced laterally outward from said ramp.

4. The conveyance of claim 3 wherein each of said links includes braces on their laterally outer sides.

5. The conveyance of claim 1 wherein said first vertical axis and said first pair of vertical axes lie in a first common vertical plane and wherein said second vertical axis and said second pair of vertical axes lie in a second common vertical plane parallel to said first common vertical plane.

6. A conveyance attachable to a pier for facilitating loading and unloading the manifest items of a boat, comprising:

a landing including

a first part adapted for rigid connection to said pier and including a floor and a pair of laterally spaced vertical walls at laterally opposite sides of said floor,

a second part pivotally connected to said first part on a first vertical pivot axis including a pair of laterally spaced stand posts with upper ends and

a first power means interconnected between said first and second parts operable to pivot said second part relative to said first part about said first vertical axis,

an elongated ramp having one of its longitudinal opposite ends pivotally connected to said second part of said landing on a first horizontal pivot axis transverse to the direction of elongation of said ramp,

a platform having

a first segment pivotally connected to the other longitudinally opposite end of said ramp on a horizontal pivot axis parallel to said first horizontal pivot axis and including a floor and a pair of laterally spaced vertically extending rigid posts, and

a second segment pivotally connected to said first segment on a second vertical axis and including a floor and a pair of laterally spaced upstanding structures,

a pair of laterally spaced parallel rails having first corresponding ends pivotally connected, respectively, to the upper ends of said stand posts on a third horizontal axis and having second corresponding ends pivotally connected, respectively, to the upper ends of said rigid posts on a fourth horizontal axis, said first, second, third and fourth horizontal axes defining corners of a parallelogram,

a first pair of laterally spaced upright spars pivotally supported at their upper and lower ends by said laterally spaced vertical walls on third and fourth vertical axis

a second pair of laterally spaced upright spars pivotally supported at their upper and lower ends by said laterally spaced upstanding structures on fifth and sixth vertical axes

a lift linkage including

a pair of laterally spaced parallel upper links having first correspondence ends pivotally connected, respectively, to said upper ends of said first pair of upright spars on fifth and sixth horizontal axes and having second corresponding ends pivotally connected to said upper ends of said second pair of said second pair of upright spars on a seventh and eighth horizontal axes,

a pair of laterally spaced parallel lower links having first corresponding ends pivotally connected respectively, to said upper ends of said second pair of upright spars on ninth and tenth horizontal axes and having second corresponding ends pivotally connected, respectively, to said lower ends of said second pair of upright spars on eleventh and twelfth horizontal axes, and

second power means operatively associated with said lift linkage operable to raise and lower said platform to and from a boat disposed adjacent said pier, said upper and lower links maintaining said platform in the same orientation relative to said boat regardless of the pivot position of said second part of said landing relative to said first part of said landing.

7. The conveyance of claim 6 wherein said ramp is a stairway with self leveling steps.

8. The conveyance of claim 7 wherein said pair of laterally spaced parallel upper rails are handrails.

9. The conveyance of 6 wherein said second power means includes a first linear fluid actuator interconnected between one of said lower links and one of said first pair of spars at one lateral side of said ramp and a second linear fluid actuator interconnected between the other of said lower links and other of said first pair of spars.

10. The conveyance of claim 6 wherein said links are spaced laterally outward from said ramp.

11. The conveyance of claim 10 wherein each of said links includes braces on their laterally outer sides.

12. The conveyance of claim 6 wherein said first vertical axis and said third and fourth vertical axes lie in a first common vertical plane and wherein said second vertical axis and said fifth and sixth vertical axes lie in a second common vertical plane parallel to said first common vertical plane.